



# The Maryland Port Administration PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 24, 2013

CONTACT:

Richard Scher  
MPA  
(410) 385-4483

## **NEW FIAT 500 L'S ROLL THROUGH THE PORT OF BALTIMORE**

### ***30,000 Cars Expected in the Next 12 months; 220 New Jobs to be Created***

(BALTIMORE, MD) --- The Port of Baltimore, which last year handled more cars than any other U.S. port, today welcome the newest addition to its auto portfolio as approximately 2500 Fiat 500 L's arrived at the Fairfield Marine Terminal onboard the Grimaldi Grand Benelux. Today's shipment is the first of 30,000 Fiat 500 L's that are expected to arrive in Maryland from Fiat's Serbia assembly plant. The new vehicles will help to create 220 new Maryland jobs, including 80 direct jobs. Fiat selected the Port of Baltimore as the only U.S. East Coast port to receive these vehicles. Auto Warehousing Corporation is the auto processor.

"We are very happy to welcome these new Fiat 500 L's to the number one auto port in the nation -- the Port of Baltimore," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "The Port of Baltimore is one of Maryland's leading economic generators with thousands of good-paying, family-supporting jobs. The Port has withstood a challenging economy and continues to outperform many other major U.S. ports. The addition of new Fiat vehicles at the Port of Baltimore demonstrates the strength of Maryland's economy and is another clear example that Maryland's port continues to thrive and bring new business and jobs to our state."

Through the first four months of 2013, autos at the Port of Baltimore are running equal with their record-breaking pace of 2012. Last year, the port's public and private marine terminals handled 652,000 vehicles, more than any other U.S. port and an increase of 18 percent from 2011. Autos are one of the main commodities handled at the port's public marine terminals. More than 1,000 direct jobs at the port are generated by the port's auto business.

In addition to being a record year for autos, 2012 also was a record year at the Port of Baltimore's public terminals for containers and roll on/roll off (farm and construction machinery). Overall, general cargo reached a record 9.59 million tons, an eight percent increase from 2011. In total, the port's public and private marine terminals saw 36.8 million tons of cargo cross their docks last year. The total dollar value of that amount of cargo was a record \$54 billion which placed Baltimore ninth nationally for dollar value of foreign cargo.

The Port of Baltimore is ranked as the top port among 360 U.S. ports for handling autos and light trucks, farm and construction machinery, imported forest products, imported sugar, imported aluminum and imported gypsum. Baltimore ranks second in the U.S. for exported coal and imported iron ore. Overall Baltimore is ranked 11<sup>th</sup> for cargo tonnage.

Business at the Port of Baltimore generates about 14,600 direct jobs, while about 108,000 jobs in Maryland are linked to port activities. The total annual economic activity at the Port of Baltimore is valued at \$3.5 billion.

# # #

Governor Martin O'Malley MDOT Acting Secretary Darrell B. Mobley MPA Executive Director James J. White

Maryland Port Administration, World Trade Center, 401 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD 21202 [www.marylandports.com](http://www.marylandports.com)